



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE APPREHENDS ILLEGAL ALIEN GANG MEMBER**

CHICAGO — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers are planning to deport a member of the local “Insane Deuces” gang and convicted criminal illegal alien who was arrested last week.

Arnoldo Baron-Orta, 18, a citizen of Mexico, was taken into custody Thursday by ICE special agents as he was released from the Illinois Department of Corrections Youth Facility at St. Charles, Ill. He was convicted of burglary in May 2003, and domestic battery in December 2004. He claims to have entered the United States illegally, accompanied by his parents, as a child.

The Chicago ICE office has arrested more than 65 illegal alien gang members in the Chicago metropolitan area so far in fiscal year 2005, which began Oct. 1. Most of these gang members have criminal convictions as well.

“Violent gangs commit crimes in Chicago, and pose a serious threat to the public,” said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Elissa Brown. “ICE will use our resources to target violent gang members, and ultimately remove them from the country to help keep our communities safe.” Brown heads the ICE Chicago Office of Investigations, which includes the states of: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Baron-Orta’s arrest is part of Operation Community Shield, an ICE initiative launched in January to target and dismantle violent street gangs across the country. ICE’s combined authorities for enforcing immigration and customs laws are powerful tools in fighting the growth of these criminal organizations. ICE has gathered thousands of names of known and suspected gang members from state and local law enforcement, and is comparing those names against immigration databases to determine immigration status and deportability. ICE can also investigate the money laundering, narcotics smuggling, financial crimes and other cross-border crimes typically committed by street gangs.

To date, Operation Community Shield has led to the arrest of hundreds of different gang members nationwide, including more than 200 members of the violent street gang Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). Operation Community Shield is designed to disrupt, dismantle and prosecute violent gang organizations by employing the full range of enforcement authorities and investigative tools available to ICE.

Working with ICE Detention and Removal Operations, the ICE Office of Investigations uses deportation as another tool to target gang members. Gang members who return to the U.S. after deportation face stiff jail sentences if they're encountered by any law enforcement agency. Re-entering the U.S. after formal deportation is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*